

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Official Action mailed April 20, 2007 ("final Office Action") in which dependent claims 50, 51, 56, 57, 60, 66, 74, 82, 88, 94, 102, and 110 were objected to but have been indicated as would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This Reply encompasses a bona fide attempt to place the present application in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 50, 51, 56, 57, 60, 66, 74, 82, 88, 94, 102, and 110 are amended herein in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 46-49, 52-55, 58, 64, 70, 73, 78, 86, 92, 98, 100-101, 106 are cancelled herein without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 1-45 were cancelled previously. New claims 114-137 are added herein. Care has been taken to avoid introducing new matters or raising new issues in the amendments to the claims presented herein. For example:

Claims 114, 118, and 123 correspond to Claim 47 as previously presented. Claim 47 is cancelled herein. Claim 114 depends on allowable Claim 50. Claim 118 depends on allowable Claim 51. Claim 123 depends on Claim 122 which incorporates allowable Claims 50, 51 and base claim 46 as previously presented. Claim 46 is cancelled herein to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Claims 126, 130, and 135 correspond to Claim 53 as previously presented. Claim 53 is cancelled herein. Claim 126 depends on allowable Claim 56. Claim 130 depends on allowable Claim 57. Claim 135 depends on Claim 134 which incorporates allowable Claims 56, 57 and base claim 52 as previously presented. Claim 52 is cancelled herein to place the application in a condition for allowance.

By this Amendment, Claims 50-51, 56-57, 59-63, 65-69, 71-72, 74-77, 79-85, 87-91, 93-97, 99, 102-105, and 107-137 are pending. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims presented herein render the rejections set forth in the final Office Action moot as all pending claims 50-51, 56-57, 59-63, 65-69, 71-72, 74-77, 79-85, 87-91, 93-97, 99, 102-105, and 107-137 incorporate allowable subject matter indicated in the final Office Action.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the present application in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include any

acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of pending Claims 50-51, 56-57, 59-63, 65-69, 71-72, 74-77, 79-85, 87-91, 93-97, 99, 102-105, and 107-137. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprinkle IP Law Group
Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katharina W. Schuster', written in a cursive style.

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Date: July 19, 2007

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